



Human Services Committee
3/13/12 Public Hearing

Please OPPOSE House Bill 5482 – An Act Expanding the Congregate Meals Program for the Elderly

- Demand for service from the Elderly Nutrition Program has increased at a time when revenue received from federal and state funding sources remains flat.
- Rising prices for commodities including food and fuel have increased costs for service providers of the Elderly Nutrition Program. In addition, augmented service and administrative requirements have also added to program costs.
- Growing demand, rising costs and static revenues have necessitated service cutbacks to the Elderly Nutrition Program throughout the state including reductions in service days at congregate café sites.
- As proposed in HB 5482, C4A opposes appropriating \$499,188 from the general fund to the elderly nutrition program to provide congregate meals six or more days per week at a time when the program lacks the necessary funding to provide meals 5 days per week at certain meal sites throughout the state.
- Most senior centers that host congregate meals sites are not open on Saturday and Sunday.
- A sixth day of meal service would create an unfunded mandate for senior centers and other locations, since no funds are available to increase their operating hours.

Please OPPOSE Raised House Bill 5452 – An Act Concerning the Delivery of Social Services

- Allowing any prospective provider to circumvent the Medicaid enrollment requirements puts the entire program at-risk. The requirements are designed to ensure the stability, sustainability and quality of the provider to ensure the safety of clients. C4A does not support HB 5452 due to its potential to jeopardize the due diligence necessary throughout the enrollment process for all Medicaid providers

Please contact Attorney Bobby Shea with any follow-up questions or comments: (860) 989-5567.